From: Thiele, Aaron

To: Andrea Travnicek; Caroline Boultine; Dan Jorjani; David Bernhardt; David Mihalic; Doug Domenech; Downey

Magallanes; Elinor Renner; Greg Sheehan; Gregory Sheehan; James Cason; Jason Larrabee; Laura Rigas; Lori Mashburn; Micah Chambers; Rees, Gareth; Rusty Roddy; Scott Angelle; Scott Cameron; Scott Hommel; Todd

Willens; Vincent DeVito; William Dove; John Tanner; Todd Wynn; John Tahsuda; Michael Argo

Cc: Foster, Maureen; Caminiti, Mariagrazia; Bryan Rice

Subject: Bi-Weekly Meeting

**Date:** Monday, December 04, 2017 11:38:44 AM

Attachments: Bi-Weekly Briefing 11-8-17.pptx

#### All,

We are scheduled to have our next bi-weekly meeting with Assistant Secretaries and Directors this Wednesday at 9:30. I will need everyone's completed slides to me by tomorrow at 3:00pm. If you are out of town or for some reason will not be attending, you are still responsible to ensure that your slides are completed, and someone from your hallway is able to present them.

Let me know if you have any questions, and attached are the slides from the previous briefing.

Best, Aaron



### Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

**November 8, 2017** 



- 1. Insular Areas
- 2. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- 3. Water and Science
- Policy, Management, and Budget
- Land and Minerals Management
- 6. Indian Affairs

- 7. Solicitor
- Congressional and Legislative Affairs
- External Affairs/ Intergovernmental
- 10. Communications
- 11. White House Liaison
- 12. Scheduling and Advance



### **Insular Areas**



### **Assistant Secretary Insular Areas**

### **Hurricane Recovery**

- OIA continues to track hurricane recovery efforts in the USVI and Puerto Rico including DOI assets (NPS, FWS, and USGS).
- AS-IN Doug Domenech has been appointed to the FEMA Hurricane Recovery Support Function Leadership Group. DOI's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance leads the recovery effort.
- November 7, 2017 Virgin Islands Hurricane and Resiliency Advisory Group kick-off meeting.
  Governor Mapp created the group to help guide reconstruction and resiliency efforts in the U.S.
  Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Office of Insular Affairs was invited to participate and is represented.
- U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp and Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello are scheduled to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources 11/14 regarding the recent Caribbean hurricanes Irma and Maria. They are to be the only witnesses.



### **Hurricane Recovery**

- The National Park Service manages six parks in the Caribbean. One park in Puerto Rico and five the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages nine units in the Caribbean. Five refuges in Puerto Rico and three the U.S. Virgin Islands. (And one additional island.)
- Focus is on opening Parks and Refuges that serve as tourist attractions.

April 25, 2018 DOI-2018-09 03309



### **Assistant Secretary Insular Areas**

### <u>Issues</u>

- GUAM and CNMI WORKER VISAS President Trump reportedly told Guam Governor Eddie Calvo and CNMI Governor Ralph Torres in Hawaii that he would aid them on addressing their labor needs — i.e., the H2-B visa availability for Guam and CW visa availability for the CNMI. Participated in a DPC call on the issue.
- OIA will chair the U.S.- Marshall Islands Trust Fund Committee on November 15 at the MIB. The Fund as of this past June is \$341,576,000. In addition to the U.S. Government and Marshall Islands voting members, a representative of the Taiwan Government serves as well. Taiwan is a vital contributor to the Fund providing \$2.4 million annually.
- DHS has agreed to open a Regional Immigration Center in American Samoa.
- This week the Brown Tree Snake Coordinating Committee will hold its meeting in Guam. OIA provides
  grant funding to prevent the spread of the invasive snake.



### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- **November 20-22 –** Domenech on personal leave.
- December 3 8, 2017 AS-IN Domenech and OIA Director Nikolao Pula will travel to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for discussions with RMI President Hilda Heine, U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Karen Stewart and visits to Majuro, and Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll.
- **December 9, 2017 –** AS-IN Domenech and Director Pula will meet with OIA Honolulu staff who aid in the administration of Compact grants to the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.
- December 11, 2017 AS-IN Domenech and Director Pula will meet (tentatively) with Hawaii Governor David
  lge and will separately be briefed on the United States' Pacific defense posture by the U.S. Pacific Command.
- December 12 13, 2017 AS-IN Domenech will address the Island Government Finance Officers Association meeting in Maui.









### **Current Operations**

#### ASFWP

- Everglades Restoration brief (Congressional)
- RESTORE Council decision memo

#### FWS

- Alaska 1002 Area update
- Utah prairie dog rule
- Fever ticks in Texas
- Comorants EA and rule

#### NPS

- Hurricane recovery in Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico
- National Mall and Memorial Park permits, November 10-12
- NPS leadership meeting, week of November 13
- Upcoming events: Manassas National Battlefield, November 10; Memorial Bridge event, November 14-17; Iwo Jima/Marine Corps War Memorial, November 21







### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- ASFWP
  - Everglades National Park land exchange with Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- FWS
  - Priority Endangered Species items
    - Monito gecko proposed delisting due to recovery, on or around November 15
    - Panama City crayfish to publish by December 29
    - Black warrior waterdog to publish by January 4, 2018
  - Mexican Wolf recovery plan, November
  - Low Effect HCP process
- NPS
  - Anti-harassment work
  - Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipeline update
  - National Christmas Tree lighting, President's Park, November 30
  - Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog plan termination notice
  - · Herd culling at national parks







### **Major Events and Travel**

- Acting Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee
  - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, November 9
  - National Parks Hospitality Association fall meeting, Denver, November 13-14
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
  - Visits to Texas national wildlife refuges impacted by Hurricane Harvey, November 9
  - Travel to Tanzania to discuss lion and elephant management strategies, November 12-16
- Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds
  - NPS leadership meetings, Washington, DC, November 14-16



### **Water and Science**



### **Current Operations**

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- Department Review: Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-term Operation of the CVP
   & SWP and Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)
- WIIN Operational Briefing-request of Majority Leader McCarthy 11/9
  - Re-consultation of Bio-Ops
  - Sections 4001, 4002, and 4003 of WIIN

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- Pre-assessment presentations being conducted: Resource Assessment of National Petroleum Reserve and Adjacent Areas-Alaska
  - Nanushuk and Torok Formations
- USGS Estimates Pounds of Potential Uranium Resources in Parts of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma-Press release 11/13



## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- H.R. 875: Bill to facilitate and streamline Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs
  processes for creating or expanding water projects-November 30
- Klamath Basin: Potential Letter

#### **U.S.** Geological Survey

- Critical minerals
- Sage Grouse
- Continue to review projects and publications
- Coordination with DOI bureaus



### **Major Events and Travel**

#### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, Sacramento, CA 11/13
- National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Annual Conference, Tucson, AZ 11/15-17
- Salton Sea Site Visits and Meetings with Water Districts, CA 11/15-17
- Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference, Anaheim, CA 11/30
- Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Conference, Las Vegas, NV 12/13-15

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- 20<sup>th</sup> William T. Pecora Memorial Remote Sensing Symposium, Sioux Falls, SD 11/14
- NASA-DOI Sustainable Land Imaging Joint Steering Group Meeting, DC 11/22
  - First meeting on Landsat 10





#### **Current Operations**

- FY 2017 Financial Audit
  - DOI has had clean and on-time audit for 20 years
  - Next step: Bureau Directors need to sign Management Representation Letters to be dated 11/14 but signature/delivery to PMB by today
  - Due date for KPMG auditors and DOI IG to release FY17 audit is 11/15/17
- FY 2018 Budget
  - Continuing Resolution into December; hopefully an omnibus after that
- FY 2019 President's Budget
  - OMB Passback expected late November; probably 4 day turnaround on any appeals
- Disasters
  - Awaiting decisions from OMB on our request for emergency supplemental appropriations; both funding and legislative initiatives are on the table



### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
  - Steve Howke has joined PMB as Senior Advisor
  - Memo in process to explain grant approval process for balance of FY 18 and beyond
  - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus grant eligibility criteria up front on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
  - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking likely December 2017/January 2018
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
  - Low-cost reprogrammings in FY 18
  - Decision made on the standard regions, map being finalized, next do related reprogramming
  - Awaiting OMB feedback on broader proposal with Passback in late November/early December
- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
  - Expecting OMB feedback in early December; second opportunity for us to revise the plan
  - Final plan due for public release on 1/20/18
  - Plan's metrics need to be tied to SES performance standards



### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Human Resource management
  - SES performance evaluations in November/December
  - Challenge: (b) (5) DPP
  - Need to settle on FY 18 SES performance standards reflecting Secretarial priorities
  - Best Places to Work in Government report comes out early December; DOI was in eleventh place among large agencies in 2016
- January SES meeting
  - Honing in on January 10, 11 for 1½ day meeting
  - Agenda under refinement
  - JMA concept a focus
  - Invitees to include bureau regional directors



### **Major Events and Travel**

Western Weed Coordinating Committee presentation; coupled with visit to Lake
Mead National Recreation Area to discuss state concerns with invasive mussels with
NPS, WGA staff, State of Nevada, State of Idaho, in Las Vegas NV, November 29





## **BLM Current Operations**

- Surnaming-Nov 17
  - Venting and Flaring Delay
  - Hydraulic Fracturing Final
- Sage Grouse Scoping Meetings Nov 3-16
- Planning 2.0 Nullification
  - Currently in surnaming process (Exec Sec)

- BLM will hold 8 Lease Sales throughout Dec
- December 6 BLM-AK will hold a lease sale for 900 tracts in the NPR-A.

- Sage Grouse
  - Dec 1 End of Scoping Period



## **OSMRE**Current Operations

- Stream Protection Rule Rescission
  - Expected publication Nov 16
- Signal Peak Litigation
  - Oct 31 District Court modified injunction to allow underground mine development work limited to 170k tons of coal

- State program amendments for approval (PA, WY, KY) remaining from past 8 years
- Upcoming Mine Plan Decisions
  - Dry Fork Mine To ASLM Dec 6
  - Belle Ayr Mine To ASLM Dec 27
  - Cordero Rojo Mine To ASLM Jan 10
  - Bridger Mine To ASLM Jan 24



#### **BOEM**

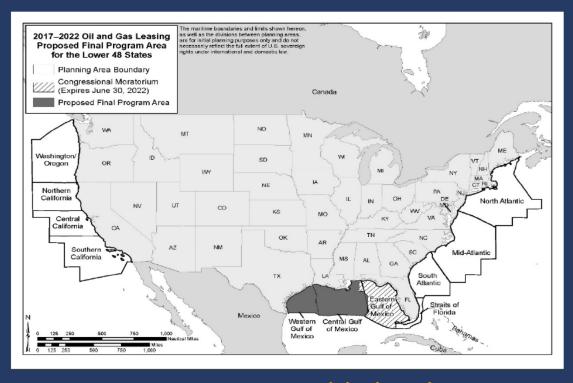
#### **Current Operations**

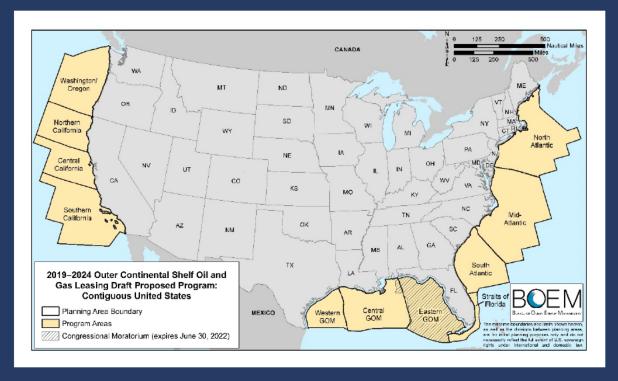
- NAS Workshop Nov 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Atlantic Offshore Renewable energy
  - Fisheries
- 5-Year DPP
  - Proposed publication of DPP Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- Liberty Island DPP
  - Public comment period ends Nov 17
  - North Slope Borough Mayor and Alaska Eskimo
     Whaling Commission requesting 30 day extension

- Next milestone in 5-year plan-Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
  - Publication starts 60 day public comment period
  - Preparing letters for all 50 governors
  - Jan 17 (tentatively) begin the Proposed Program



# Land and Minerals Management 5 Year Plan Comparison



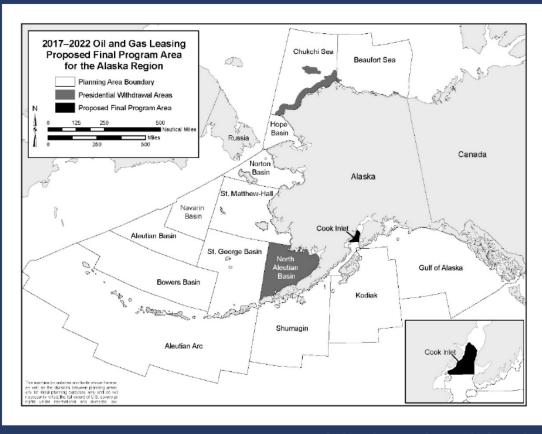


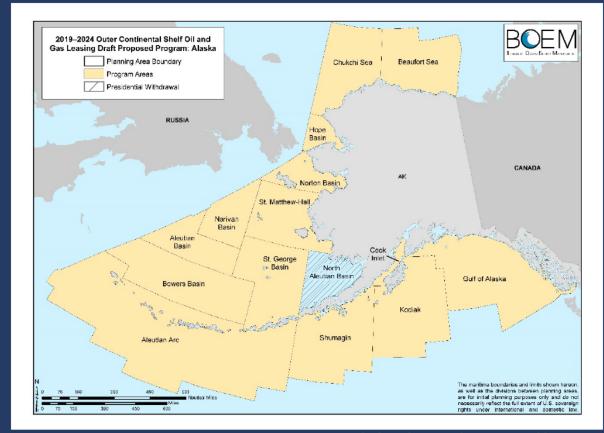
2017 Program Areas Highlighted in gray

2019 Program Areas Highlighted in yellow



# Land and Minerals Management 5 Year Plan Comparison







## **BSEE**Current Operations

- Surnaming Nov 17
  - Well Control
  - Sub Part H
- Arctic Slope Regional Corp.
  - Requested a suspension of operations (SOO) for 21 leases previously held by shell
  - Decision on SOO is pending

- Regulatory reform updates
  - BSEE has established teams to prepare Well Control Rule and Production Safety Systems Rule



### **Major Events and Travel**

From November 14-17 Acting Assistant Secretary, Kate MacGregor will be in Colorado for Petroleum and Mining presentations.

From November 14-17 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Casey Hammond will be in Utah for a series of Sage Grouse scoping meetings.

From November 6-9 BSEE Director Scott Angelle will be in Texas for meetings with industry groups.



### **Indian Affairs**



### **Current Operations**

- BIE negotiated rulemaking
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
  - Upcoming Consultations
- Reviewing regulations and processes on titles and leases
  - 184 Mortgage effort with HUD
  - Short form leases for tribes engaged in commercial real estate development
- Reviewing lease fee collections
- Meeting with Tribal/Interior Budget Committee
  - Hear tribal views and priorities
- Land Buy Back Program



### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Work on charter school policy proposals from NIEA
  - · Expansion of grades and facility sharing
  - Eliminate prohibitions on charter schools as school choice options for BIE schools
  - Allow BIE schools to contract with charter management organizations
- Work on TIBC recommendations
  - Identifying Departmental vs. tribal priorities
  - Prepare responses to tribal views and priorities



### **Major Events and Travel**

- Congressional Testimony
  - PDAS Tahsuda potentially testifying at SCIA (11/8) on STOP Act
- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
  - Native American Contractors (Tahsuda, 11/7)
  - Potential visit to Chemewa Boarding School/Radio interview (Tahsuda, 11/14)
- Tribal Consultations
  - Land into Trust (January dates being considered)
  - BIE Strategic Plan (11/15, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/14)



### **Solicitor**



### **Current Operations**

General Update



### Office of the Solicitor

### **30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook**

General Update



# Office of the Solicitor

## **Major Events and Travel**

None



# Congressional and Legislative Affairs



#### **Current Operations**

- Nominees
  - Burman (BOR), Combs (ASPMB), Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
  - (b) (5)
  - Tara Sweeney AS-IA Nominated, OGE legal review
  - Steve Gardner OSM, OGE legal review
- Maintenance Fund Language On the Hill, awaiting rollout event with WH
  - Alexander, Gardner, Daines
- Nominee Letter to McConnell / Schumer
- HR624 Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017
- Pending Colorado Mineral Leasing Act Announcement Gardner/Tipton
- Floor Schedule:
  - Senate Nominees for DOT, EPA, NLRB, Asst. AG
  - House H.R. 3043 Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 / Tax Reform W&M Markup



## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

#### **Hearings**

- (11/8) SCIA legislative hearing on S. 1400 (Sen. Heinrich), the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017 and S. 465 (Sen. Rounds), the Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017. The Department will only be providing testimony on S.1400.
  - Witness: John Tahsuda, Acting Asst. Secretary for Indian Affairs
- (11/9) SCIA is holding a roundtable entitled "Confronting the Crisis: the Opioid Epidemic in Indian Country."
  - Participant: Charlie Addington, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Justice Services
- (11/15) HNRC Hearings
  - Indian Affairs Legislative Hearing
  - Federal Lands Legislative Hearing Acadia

#### **Legislative Agenda**

- Supplemental Disaster Relief bills Delayed
- Senate Interior Appropriations Delayed
- Senate Energy 1002 Area QFRs received, language to be introduced and marked up shortly by committee



#### **Major Events and Travel**

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
  - Chairman Bishop 11/7/17
  - SAC-I Member Meeting hosted at DOI 11/16
  - Louisiana Coastal Tour Sen. Cassidy TBD
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
  - Western Caucus 11/14
  - Chairman Bishop 11/15
  - Rep. Amodei Surname Tour 11/15 or 16
- Western Caucus (12/8-12/9) Working w/ External & Western Caucus to determine attendees



# **External and Intergovernmental Affairs**



## Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

### **Current Operations**

- Timber Resources & Wildfire Roundtable
- FACA Board Outreach
- Monument Outreach



## Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

## **30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook**

• oiea@ios.doi.gov



## Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

#### **Major Events**

None

#### <u>Travel</u>

- Todd Wynn: Heartland Institute (Houston: 11/7 -- 11/10)
- Ben Cassidy: NPHA Fall Meeting (Denver: 11/13 -- 11/15)
- Tim Williams: Sage Grouse Scoping Meeting (Colorado: 11/8)



# **Communications**



## **Office of Communications**

#### **Current Operations**

- Nov. 7 DOI Veterans Ceremony
- Nov. 7 Made in America Recreation Committee release
- Nov. 8 International Wildlife Conservation Council release
- Nov. 8 Philly Inquirer Veterans Day op-ed
- Nov. 9 Veterans Day Video + op-ed, sent to all employees
- Nov. 10/11 Veterans Day Events
- Nov. 13 Release on draft Environmental Assessment on Cormorants
- Dec. 4 Event with POTUS in Utah on Monuments



### 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Themes: Native American Heritage Month/Veterans, Infrastructure

#### To do:

- Critical Minerals Report, EO Communications Rollout
- DOI-Wide Harassment Survey Results
- Memorial Bridge Project/Rebuild Our Parks Initiative
- Wildland Fire Roundtable
- Zimbabwe Trophy Elephant Import Ruling
- Comms Rollout for announcement of draft proposed 5 yr Program for OCS Oil & Gas development



## **White House Liaison**



#### **White House Liaison Office**

#### **Personnel:**

- Schedule C
  - 35 of 70 onboard
  - 1 starting
  - 10 in process

- SES
  - 26 of 44 onboard
  - 2 starting
  - 2 in process

- PAS
  - 3 out of 17 onboard
  - 6 of 17 announced
  - 14 of 17 submitted

- John Bockmier Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications 11/13
- John Tanner Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs 11/14
- Brandon Middleton Deputy Solicitor for Water Resources 11/27



# **Scheduling and Advance**



## **Scheduling and Advance**

#### In Town Events:

- Cabinet Meetings (11/20)
- NFWF Board of Directors Meeting (11/8)
- Reading of Names at Vietnam Veterans Memorial (11/8)
- Washing of the Vietnam Memorial Walls w/ VPOTUS (11/11)
- World War II Memorial Veterans Day Celebration (11/11)
- Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)

- Korean War Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)
- U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial Unveiling of engravings for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (11/21)

#### **Upcoming Trips**

Manassas National Battlefield Park (11/10)